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CONGRESSMAN DAVID WU TO ANNOUNCE PELL GRANT LEGISLATION

Wu requests increase in grants for college students

Washington, DC – Congressman David Wu on Tuesday at Portland State University will announce his sponsorship of legislation that would increase the Pell Grant award amount. H.J. Res 53 directs the Congress to increase the amount awarded to students.

"With the increasing costs of higher education, students and their families are being asked to bear more and more of the financial burden. Despite incremental increases in the Pell Grant in the past few years, the Pell Grant remains far below the purchasing power it had two decades ago," said Congressman Wu. "This legislation is a common sense way to continue our commitment to education."

Congressman Wu will announce the legislation on Tuesday, February 20 at 10:45 a.m. at the PSU Financial Aid Office, 174 Neuberger Hall, 724 SW Harrison Street in Portland.

Since its inception in 1973, over 80 million Pell Grants have helped students go to college. The current maximum Pell Grant award covers approximately 39 percent of the average fixed cost at a four-year public college and only 15 percent at a private four-year college. There are 3724 students enrolled at PSU who were awarded Pell Grants for the current award year (2000-2001).

PSU student Alina Miu will talk about how the Pell Grant has helped her pay for college and discuss her experience working in the financial aid office with other grant recipients. Sam Collie, financial aid director at PSU, will also talk about the Pell Grant and its connection to PSU.

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